

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,122,580 to Autermann ("Autermann") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0263316 to Dix et al. ("Dix"). The rejection of canceled claim 2 is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 3 and 4 is respectfully traversed.

Autermann and Dix, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to teach and would not have rendered obvious the claimed combinations of features recited in independent claim 1. Autermann and Dix fail to teach and would not have rendered obvious "when a new reference ID code is added to or a registered reference ID code is deleted from the vehicle via said setting unit, said transmitting unit transmits information relating to the added new reference ID code or the deleted registered reference ID code to said predetermined communications station," as recited in independent claim 1.

Autermann discloses an apparatus for driver-specific setting of vehicle devices (EG) having a local processor LP and a central processor ZP (see col. 4, lines 43-54 and Fig. 1). A radio link between the mobile radio FG and the central processor radio FZ is used for sending the user's identifier ID to the central processor ZP. The radio link is also used for transmitting the associated personal data set PSx with the user's identifier ID from the central processor ZP to the local processor LP. Autermann discloses that the identifier and associated personal data set IDx/PSx are dispersed by radio from a central processor at the conclusion of the vehicle use by a key holder, as a standard operation or based on instructions from the key

holder (see col. 4, lines 46-48). However, Autermann does not disclose that the user's identifier ID and the associated personal data set IDx/PSx are dispersed by radio to the central processor ZP "when a new reference ID code is added to or a registered reference ID code is deleted from the vehicle."

Dix makes no mention of a "transmitting unit" and, as noted in the Office Action, Autermann does not disclose a setting unit. Thus, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine Autermann and Dix, which Applicant does not admit would have been obvious, there is nothing in these references that suggests to have a transmitting unit wherein "when a new reference ID code is added to or a registered reference ID code is deleted from the vehicle via said setting unit, said transmitting unit transmits information relating to the added new reference ID code or the deleted registered reference ID code to said predetermined communications station." That is, because Dix discloses storing and removing operator smart key numbers in the internal memory by controller 38, and Autermann only discloses that the identifier and associated personal data set IDx/PSx are dispersed by radio from a central processor at the conclusion of the vehicle use by a key holder, as a standard operation or based on instructions from the key holder, there is nothing to suggest that stored or removed operator smart key numbers in the internal memory would be sent to the central processor of Autermann when the smart key numbers are stored or removed in the internal memory of Dix. Thus the combination of Autermann and Dix does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the above-quoted features of claim 1.

Autermann and Dix also fail to teach and would not have rendered obvious "a transmitting unit for transmitting, when a new reference ID code is added to or a registered reference ID code is deleted from the vehicle via said setting unit, information relating to the added new reference ID code or the deleted registered reference ID code to said communications station," as recited in independent claim 4.

As discussed above, Autermann does not disclose that the identifier and associated personal data set IDx/PSx are dispersed by radio "when a new reference ID code is added to or a registered reference ID code is deleted from the vehicle via said setting unit."

Additionally, Dix fails to overcome the deficiencies of Autermann, because, for example, Dix does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the above-quoted features of claim

4. Thus, the combination of Autermann and Dix does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the above-quoted features of claim 4.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Autermann in view of Dix.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 3 is also patentable over the references at least for its dependence from claim 1 as well as for the additional features claim 3 recites.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 and 4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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